REMARKS

5   1.   Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments which have greatly assisted Applicant in responding.

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8, and 15 and has canceled Claims 5, 12, and 19 without prejudice. It should be noted that Applicant has elected to amend and cancel such Claims
10   solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making this amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled and does not concede, in any way, that the subject matter of such claim was in fact taught or disclosed by the cited prior
15   art. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

2.   **35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.** The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 8, and 15
20   under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner said that the recitations, "the intervention of a human being," "the preferences for a specific instance," and "the relationship" were unclear as to what Applicant was referring to. Applicant was requested to clarify the issue.

25   Applicant has amended Claims 1, 8, and 15 to further clarify the invention.

Regarding "the intervention of a human being," Applicant has deleted such clause.

Regarding "the preferences for a specific instance," Applicant respectfully disagrees.
30   Ample support is provided in the Specification. A clear example of concept and implementation is provided on page 12, lines 12-15, as follows (emphasis added):

> **The user (appropriate to the task) that administers this instance of the object**
> **has the choice of selecting values, and sequencing of values. Those values**
35   > **higher on the list have preference over those values lower on the list.**

Here, Visa 204 has preference over On Account 205, which has preference over Amex 206.

However, Applicant has amended the Claims to provide proper antecedent basis.

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Regarding "the relationship," Applicant respectfully disagrees. Ample support is provided in the Specification. Clear examples of concept and implementation is provided as follows (emphasis added):

10   (On page 6, lines 16-19)
The use of a common approach **to evaluate object relationships** makes the testing and documentation of the results easier and more maintainable. This makes developers more productive along with the users experiencing a more predictable set of logic.

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(On page 7, lines 11-19):
- a default value for a specific attribute of a specific instance of an object.
- a list of valid values for a specific attribute of a specific instance of an object.
- **relationships** between specific instances of objects.
20 - a specific attribute to a specific **relationship** between two or more specific objects.
- a default value for a specific attribute of a specific **relationship**.
- a list of valid values for a specific attribute of a specific **relationship**.
- the specific behavior (methods) to be used by specific objects in specific
25 **relationships.**

(On page 8, lines 20-21), **a clear example:**
- "Dynamic" or **defined by the relationship between two classes of objects,** e.g., a list of **"Ship-To" locations for the XYZ Company.**

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However, Applicant has amended the Claims to provide proper antecedent basis.

Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that, Claims 1, 8, and 15 as amended overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As such, Applicant respectfully
35 requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

3.   **35 U.S.C. §103(a).** The Examiner rejected Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fisk, *et al* (Fisk) U.S. Pat. No. 5,790,847 in view of Chacker (U.S. Pat. No. 6,578,008).

5   Applicant respectfully disagrees.

<u>Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15:</u>

Applicant has canceled without prejudice Claims 5, 12, and 19, and has incorporated the
10   respective limitations into independent Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Regarding the rejection to process Claim 5 (and hence to the underlying apparatus and program storage medium Claims 12 and 19, respectively), the Examiner stated that Chacker discloses providing resolution strategy means for resolving conflicts between
15   specific preferences of voters and determining the correct solution set and cites Col. 9, lines 10-67. The Examiner also stated that Chacker discloses wherein the sequence of voters and the order of the votes included for each voter determines the values in said solution set and cites Col. 7, lines 8-67.

20   Chacker does not teach or disclose a system that provides resolution strategy means for resolving conflicts between specific preferences of voters and determining the correct solution set. Chacker makes no mention of a resolution strategy means for resolving conflicts between specific preferences of voters and determining the correct solution set. Chacker does not contemplate such a system.
25

In stark contrast, Chacker teaches a method and system wherein the public votes on which artists they like (see Abstract.) Chacker makes no mention of a resolution strategy means for resolving conflicts between specific preferences of voters and determining the correct solution set. Chacker does not contemplate such a system.
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Further, Chacker does not teach or disclose wherein the sequence of voters and the order of the votes included for each voter determines the values in said solution set. Chacker makes no mention of wherein the sequence of voters and the order of the votes included for each voter determines the values in said solution set. Chacker does not contemplate
35   such a system.

Again, in stark contrast, Chacker teaches a method and system wherein the public votes on which artists they like (see Abstract.) Such disclosure teaches against a **sequence of voters** and **the order of the votes included for each voter** determining values in said solution set.

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Therefore, Fisk in view of Chacker does not teach or disclose the invention as claimed.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are deemed in allowable condition. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-18, 20-21 are dependent upon Claims 1, 8, and 15, respectively. Therefore, Applicant

10   respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).
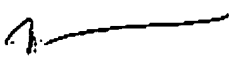

CONCLUSION

15   Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States patent.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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